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CONFIDENTIAL

30 November 1964

Memorandum For : Deputy Director for Plans

Subject : Establishment of a Clandestine Services Historical Board

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1. As an initial step in preparing the CS history, [] was detailed to the Historical Staff, O/DCI, to draft the chronicle of our activities in Vietnam; his official assignment by the ADD/P was in December 1963. It was understood that in the process he would locate sources of key policy and command documents, identify problems and suggest solutions, develop systems for orderly and thorough review, specify important series of documentation warranting retention for continuity and insight, as might be applied in the historical treatment of other CS topics. In January 1964, [] was assigned to the Historical Staff to pursue similar purposes for the CS across the board, making the "first approaches to a history of the Clandestine Services needed to complement previously written histories of the overt directorates." [] working closely together, considered each other's opinions and conclusions.

2. [] has assumed the responsibility for [] work since his prolonged hospitalization. [] has been recently assigned from the CA Staff to fill one of the four positions provided by the Executive Director-Comptroller for essential work on CS records of historical value. [] with an ETA from [] in early 1965, will be the second person assigned. Steps are being taken to locate another senior research assistant and a clerical assistant. A simple reference and retrieval system is being developed; very few documents are reproduced at this time due to space limitations and problems of handling and control; source and availability are being noted on abstract cards, with the necessary cross-indexing.

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3. In addition to the above and preparing the account of our activities in Vietnam, [] is working with the VE Division which is preparing area historical briefs and summaries; nine countries are now in process. The results of these efforts will contribute to "the record of the Agency's independent operations, achievements, and functional development," and the fulfillment of those requirements incumbent upon the Clandestine Services in the preparation of the Agency record. (Headquarters [] "Historical Staff, O/DCI," revised 31 March 1964.)

4. The establishment of a small CS Historical Board makes good sense. The historical drafts should be prepared by able and knowledgeable officers who receive direct support from the CS representative on the Historical Staff, with the Staff providing general guidance in fulfilling its role. The CS Historical Board would consider and recommend on matters of historical problems and policy, identify topics—functions, organizations and areas—requiring historical treatment, set priorities, provide direction,

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and review the progress of the various officers at work on CS chronicles. [redacted] being in constant touch with CS draftsmen, and reflecting Agency guidance from the Historical Staff, O/DCI, can serve as the catalyst in effectively advancing the CS historical efforts. This work might best be advanced if he managed the CS historical effort.

5. It is therefore recommended that you approve:

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a. The designation of [redacted] CS officer on the Historical Staff, O/DCI, as responsible officer for the management of the Clamdestine Services historical effort.

b. The assignment of three officer/analysts and one research/clerk to the four positions provided by the Executive Director-Comptroller.

c. The establishment of a small CS Historical Board, including its membership as it appears on the attached proposed [redacted].

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/s/
[redacted]
Chief, Operational Services

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Concur:

/s/
[redacted]
Assistant Deputy Director (Plans)

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Approve:

/s/
Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

Attachment:
Draft CSN

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